

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 182

Recognizing the democratic accomplishments of the people of Albania and expressing the hope that the parliamentary elections on June 28, 2009, maintain and improve the transparency and fairness of democracy in Albania.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 10, 2009

Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. DEMINT, and Mr. KAUFMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

JUNE 16, 2009

Reported by Mr. KERRY without amendment

JUNE 19, 2009

Considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the democratic accomplishments of the people of Albania and expressing the hope that the parliamentary elections on June 28, 2009, maintain and improve the transparency and fairness of democracy in Albania.

Whereas the people of Albania have made extraordinary progress from authoritarian government and a closed market to a democratic government and market economy in less than two decades;

Whereas the Republic of Albania, with the advice and consent of this Senate and the governments of the other member countries, was officially admitted to full membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization on April 2, 2009;

Whereas the Thessaloniki Declaration of 2003 confirmed that the countries of the Western Balkans are eligible for accession to the European Union once they have fulfilled the requirements for membership; and

Whereas the Government of Albania has accepted numerous specific commitments governing the conduct of elections as a participating state in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE): Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) urges the Government of Albania to fulfill
3 the commitments it has made to the OSCE with re-
4 spect to the conduct of its upcoming elections, and
5 to ensure that those elections are free and fair;

6 (2) urges the Government of Albania to expe-
7 dite the implementation of its voter identification
8 card program to minimize the possibility of dis-
9 enfranchisement and provide as many cards as pos-
10 sible to eligible voters prior to the election;

11 (3) commends the positive step taken by the
12 Government of Albania to reduce the cost of the
13 voter ID card significantly and avoid charges of a
14 poll tax; and

1 (4) expresses its hope that credible democratic
2 elections in Albania will contribute to a strong and
3 stable government responsive to the wishes of the
4 people of Albania and strengthen Albania's standing
5 within NATO and European institutions.

○